



## COUNTRY PROFILE



### Ghana

In Ghana, Feed the Future is targeting investments in specific regions for maximum impact. These statistics reflect the realities of Ghana and the results of Feed the Future's work there.

POPULATION	POVERTY	STUNTING	RURAL	GDP
<b>5</b> Million Number of people living in Feed the Future target regions in Ghana	<b>22.2</b> Percent Percentage of people living in poverty in Feed the Future target regions	<b>36.1</b> Percent Percentage of children under 5 suffering from stunting in Feed the Future target regions	<b>47</b> Percent Percentage of population living in rural Ghana (World Bank, 2012)	<b>7.9</b> Percent Annual GDP growth. Agriculture accounts for 23 percent of added value (World Bank, 2012)
FARMERS	SALES	NUTRITION	LAND	INVESTMENT
<b>20.5</b> Thousand Producers using new technology and skills with Feed the Future's help in FY13	<b>11.7</b> Million Total sales by smallholder farmers from agricultural sales in FY13	<b>633</b> Thousand Children under 5 reached with nutrition help in FY13 across Ghana	<b>21.7</b> Thousand Hectares tended with improved technologies or management practices in FY13	<b>1.7</b> Million New private investment leveraged by Feed the Future in FY13

## Approach

Steady growth and record poverty reduction over the past 20 years have made Ghana an African success story. Gross domestic product (GDP) has grown between 4 and 8 percent annually over the past decade and is expected to continue to grow in coming years. Agricultural growth has been the major driver of poverty reduction, especially in the southern part of Ghana. The sector is the largest source of employment for Ghanaians and is dominated by smallholder farmers producing food and cash crops.

Ghana has achieved an overall reduction in the poverty rate from 52 percent to 28 percent over the past 10 years. Despite this progress, the northern part of the country still has poverty rates nearly twice that of the South. There is a risk that poverty in the North will remain high and the income gap between the North and the South will further widen. While Ghana has exhibited significant progress in agriculture, it is still necessary to import 70 percent of rice and 15 percent of maize consumed. The demand of both these staple crops is predicted to escalate with the rise in incomes and a high urban growth rate.

While Ghana has made progress in decreasing the prevalence of underweight children under 5, from 25 percent in 1998 to 14 percent in 2008, major child health challenges remain. The northern regions have greater rates of underweight and wasting, which are linked closely to food insecurity. Chronic undernutrition in these regions is linked to household poverty levels, disease burden, inadequate sanitation facilities and poor infant-feeding practices.

Feed the Future is working with the Government of Ghana and other partners to improve economic opportunities and diversify household income in the rural northern regions as well as tackle poverty in the coastal areas of Ghana, where many families rely on fisheries for their livelihoods.

## Strategy

Goal: Reduce the prevalence in poverty in Feed the Future target regions by 20 percent.

- 2012 baseline: 22 percent
- 2017 target: 17.76 percent
- [How we calculate](#)

Goal: Reduce the prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years old in Feed the Future target regions by 20 percent.

- 2012 baseline: 36 percent
- 2017 target: 29 percent
- [How we calculate](#)

To achieve its goals, Feed the Future is making key investments to:

- Improve the competitiveness of targeted value chains
- Improve management of marine fisheries
- Improve the resilience of vulnerable populations
- Improve nutrition, particularly of women and children
- Increase maize and rice production in northern Ghana
- More than double gross margins per hectare of land for smallholder farmers

Feed the Future is focusing its efforts in targeted regions and value chains to maximize impact.

### Value Chains

- Rice
- Maize
- Soybean
- Marine fisheries

### Target Regions

- Northern, Upper West and Upper East Regions
- Marine fisheries in Central Region
- *Other activities in Ghana that ultimately support beneficiaries in targeted regions*

## Program Highlights

**Value Chain Approach.** From production to marketing, Feed the Future is helping increase the competitiveness of the rice, maize and soybean value chains in northern Ghana. To accomplish this, Feed the Future is increasing farmers' access to seeds and fertilizers, building and rehabilitating irrigation systems, improving crop research and farming practices, and modernizing storage and distribution methods. Feed the Future activities also incorporate information on climate vulnerabilities and other information to support sustainable food security.

**Nutrition.** Ghana has decreased the prevalence of underweight children under 5. However, anemia and stunting threaten to derail the hard-won economic and development progress made to date with almost 80 percent of Ghanaians suffering from one or both conditions. By working through communities and strengthening local support networks, Feed the Future is helping address the ongoing livelihood and nutrition needs of vulnerable households and helping families, particularly food-insecure households in northern Ghana with women of reproductive age and children younger than 2, improve their access to diverse and quality food. Feed the Future is also investing in activities to improve child-feeding behaviors, including developing training materials, expanding community-based treatment, and increasing accessibility of safe, quality foods for child weaning.

**Gender Integration.** Through value chain activities, Feed the Future in Ghana engages women's groups to advocate on behalf of women farmers, traders and processors and addresses gender-based constraints specific to each targeted commodity. Through one of its projects in Ghana, Feed the Future specifically helps women of child-bearing age increase their agricultural income, improve their access to credit and diversify their diets.

**Policy.** Feed the Future is supporting the Government of Ghana to meet its policy commitments in three areas outlined in its New Alliance Country Cooperation Framework: improved policies on inputs; a secure environment for private sector investment; and a transparent, evidence-based and inclusive policy process. So far, Feed the Future has helped Ghana

complete regulations to implement a new seed and fertilizer law and is working with the Government of Ghana to develop and implement a more robust annual agricultural survey. Feed the Future is also supporting the development of a land bank and model lease agreement to improve land tenure for responsible private investment. Feed the Future is helping improve governance to replenish Ghana's depleted marine fisheries, an important and affordable source of protein for poor families. Through these efforts, Feed the Future, the Government of Ghana and other donors are working to strengthen the country's agriculture and food security policy system.

**Private Sector Engagement.** Feed the Future is facilitating private sector engagement throughout the agricultural value chain, primarily by connecting buyers, producers and other actors. Connecting buyers and producers helps them better understand market possibilities and pricing, increasing farmer income and market efficiency. Feed the Future is easing constraints to agricultural finance by establishing loan guarantee mechanisms that reduce risks to lenders and improve farmer access to resources for financing new agricultural endeavors.

**Scaling Innovations.** Feed the Future in Ghana is focusing on scaling technologies and practices in maize, rice and soybean crops to help farmers access and adopt improved seeds and good agricultural practices such as urea deep placement and mechanization for planting and post-harvest operations to improve efficiency and reduce losses.

## Results

### Results by the numbers\*

- More than **20,000 farmers and other producers** applied new technologies and management practices for the first time on more than 21,700 hectares of land with Feed the Future's help
- Feed the Future-supported farmers and producers sold **\$11.7 million (USD)** worth of agricultural products
- Feed the Future leveraged more than **\$1.7 million (USD)** in new private investment in food and agriculture in Ghana
- U.S. Government nutrition programs reached more than **633,100 children** under 5 years old

In Ghana, more than 34,000 farmers benefitted from Feed the Future's support last year, collectively increasing the value of their agricultural sales more than 260 percent and harvests more than 280 percent compared to FY12.

Growing more per hectare than the year before, these farmers produced 37,000 metric tons of rice, maize and soybean. And while they have yet to reach their full yield potential, they did achieve a 44 percent (maize), 93 percent (rice) and 50 percent (soybean) increase over the previous year's yields by adopting improved technologies such as multi-crop planting and threshing machines, fertilizer deep placement techniques, and high-yielding varieties of maize and rice.

A strong production year combined with robust market demand and stable prices helped farmers increase their gross margins by 213 percent for maize, 132 percent for rice, and 838 percent for soybean. Due to higher yields on smaller, better managed plots, women farmers' gross margin in rice was 5 percent higher than that of men and 22 percent higher than men's in maize.

Feed the Future also helped fishery institutions in Ghana better manage and enforce laws. With training from Feed the Future on fishery laws and methods for gathering evidence, judges, prosecutors, fisheries officers, marine policy and civil society members prosecuted 36 cases in the Western region of Ghana after years without prior success.

Feed the Future also started several new projects in 2013 that will accelerate impact in northern Ghana to boost incomes and reduce undernutrition:

- A new **agriculture technology transfer** project will increase the availability and accessibility of inputs to farmers and help scale local innovations in agriculture to boost productivity.
- A new **agriculture finance** project will address key constraints farmers face in accessing credit. A new commercial agriculture project, a partnership with the World Bank and the Government of Ghana, will support private sector investment and productivity.
- A new **policy** project will improve the food security enabling environment for private sector investment in agriculture. The project will work with the Government of Ghana, private sector and civil society to improve capacity for evidence-based policy formation, implementation, research and advocacy.

### Key achievements\*

- As part of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, Ghana has made tangible progress in passing new seed legislation and establishing a working group to move ahead on seed sector structural reforms in Ghana.

- Feed the Future farmers increased their rice yields 93 percent in FY13, from 1.4 megatons per hectare to 2.7, thanks to new technologies and links to markets facilitated by Feed the Future.
- Feed the Future farmers increased yields of all three focus value chains and increased their gross margins considerably in all three as well: 213 percent for maize, 132 percent for rice and 838 percent for soybean.
- Marine fisheries laws were enforced through the successful prosecution of 36 cases, a significant impact given no prosecutions were successful in prior years.

### Reasons for success

- Effective and practical approaches to appropriate technology and innovative agriculture sector financing
- A private sector focus working through nucleus farmers who have direct contractual relationships with thousands of smallholder farmers
- Collaboration and coordination with other development partners in Feed the Future target regions

### \*What you need to know about these results

They reflect information from USAID, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Peace Corps reported into Feed the Future's central monitoring system.

They reflect FY2013 only and are a result of U.S. Government assistance.

We calculate poverty rates using the \$1.25 per day standard.

While our data collection and reporting systems are quite rigorous, we're still perfecting them. We're also updating our central monitoring system to track outcomes of our new policy and scaling initiatives, such as increases in indirect beneficiaries.

We compared new sales by smallholder farmers of agricultural products in FY2013 to a baseline to calculate the incremental sales results number.

## Opportunities

The Government of Ghana has increased its investment in agriculture to nearly 10 percent of its national budget since signing its Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program Compact in 2009. Building on this, the Medium Term Agriculture Sector Investment Plan brings together donor, public and private sector resources to modernize the agriculture sector, increase food security and reduce poverty.

Ghana is also one of the first African countries of the [New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition](#), a commitment by donors, African countries and private sector partners to reduce poverty through inclusive agricultural growth. Under the New Alliance, the Government of Ghana and G8 members have endorsed a Cooperation Framework, through which the Government of Ghana has committed to specific policy actions that will increase private investment in agriculture. G8 donors have pledged to align their funding behind country plans, and private sector partners signed letters of intent detailing their investment plans in Ghana's agricultural sector.

Feed the Future is contributing to the government's commitment to food security and building on a common purpose shared among civil society, the private sector and development partners. Public-private partnerships are an important opportunity to strengthen food security and accelerate economic growth in Ghana and the West African region as a whole.

Looking for opportunities to work in our Feed the Future countries? Visit the opportunities tabs on our [Research](#) and [Civil Society](#) pages.

If you're a private sector company interested in a partnership with Feed the Future agencies in the areas of food security and nutrition in Ghana, use our [interactive online tool](#) to learn more, register your partnership ideas with us and get connected to a partnership expert who can help address your interest.

## Activities

### USAID activities in Ghana:

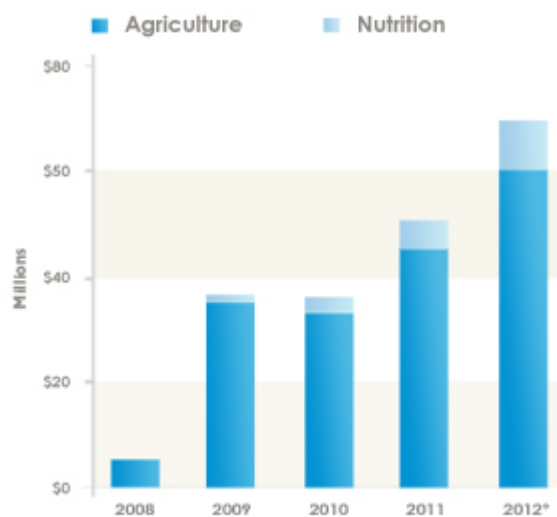
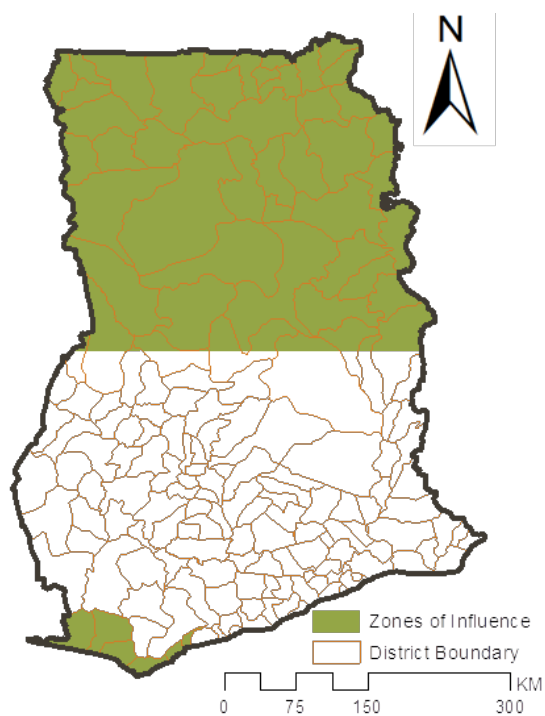
- African Women in Agricultural Research for Development (AWARD)
- Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement Program
- Agriculture Policy Support Project
- Agricultural Technology Transfer
- Borlaug Higher Education Agricultural Research and Development Program
- Business Sector Advocacy Challenge Fund
- Financing Ghana Agricultural Project
- Empowering Agriculture Global Development Alliances
- ESOKO partnership
- Ghana Advance Maize Seed Adoption Program with DuPont Pioneer
- Ghana Commercial Agriculture Program
- Ghana Strategy Support Program
- Modernizing Extension and Advisory Services
- Program for Biosafety Systems
- Resilience in Northern Ghana (RING)
- Strengthening Partnerships, Results and Innovations in Nutrition Globally
- USAID Development Credit Authority Loan Portfolio Guarantee
- USAID Farmer-to-Farmer Program
- USDA – Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Support Services

#### **Other Feed the Future-supported programs at work in Ghana:**

- Asian Vegetable Research Development Center
- Africa Agriculture Technology Foundation
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Climate-Resilient Cowpea
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Aquaculture & Fisheries
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Assets and Market Access
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Grain Legumes
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Horticulture
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Integrated Pest Management
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Peanut Productivity and Mycotoxin Control
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Sorghum and Millet
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Genomics to Improve Poultry
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for the Reduction of Post-Harvest Loss
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Small-Scale Irrigation
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Soybean Value Chain Research
- International Fertilizer Development Center
- Peace Corps
- Scaling Seeds and Technology Partnership (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa)

## **Target Regions**

## **Funding**



\*2012 is included in the President's budget request to Congress and is not yet approved